

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An extrusion process for making pellets of a thermoplastic extrudable resin composition comprising a thermoplastic polymer, plasticiser and optionally further additives, the plasticiser comprising a component which is solid at room temperature and a carbohydrate selected from the group consisting of sorbitol, glucitol, mannitol, galactitol, dulcitol, xylitol, erythritol, isomaltutose and isomalt, wherein the process is run at a temperature above the melting point of the plasticiser and below the melting or plastification temperature of the thermoplastic polymer, wherein the temperature of material ~~with an~~ within an extruder is at least 40°C.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the plasticiser is present in the composition in at least 5%.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim ~~4~~ 1, wherein the temperature of the material within the extruder does not exceed a temperature which is 10°C, below the melting or plastification temperature of the thermoplastic polymer at any time.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the particle size of raw materials used is below 2000µm.
8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic polymer is water-soluble or water dispersible.
12. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 11, wherein the thermoplastic polymer comprises PVOH or a derivative thereof.
13. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic polymer comprises poly(vinylpyrrolidone), poly(acrylic acid), poly(maleic acid), a cellulose derivative, poly(glycolide), poly(glycolic acid), poly(lactides), poly(lactic acid) and copolymers thereof.
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 3, wherein the plasticiser is present in the composition in at least 10%.
17. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 16, wherein the plasticiser is present in the composition in at least 15%.
18. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 5, wherein the temperature of the material within the extruder does not exceed a temperature which is 15°C, below the melting or plastification temperature of the thermoplastic polymer at any time.

19. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 18, wherein the temperature of the material within the extruder does not exceed a temperature which is 30°C, below the melting or plastification temperature of the thermoplastic polymer at any time.
20. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 18, wherein the temperature of the material within the extruder does not exceed a temperature which is 45°C, below the melting or plastification temperature of the thermoplastic polymer at any time.